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MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS

BACKGROUND

Reassessment of Middle East defense requirements began in 1951. Plans for multilateral defense arrangements in Middle East have been unsuccessful thus far due largely to increased nationalism, area tensions, and suspicion of Western motives.

- A. First plan -- Middle East command (MEC) concept -- which was intended to solve Anglo-Egyptian impasse by establishing multilateral pact to replace 1936 treaty, failed to materialize, primarily because of Egypt's rejection.
- B. Second plan, launched in mid-1952 -- Middle East defense organization (MEDO) concept -- emphasized planning phase of defense. It also was not implemented, primarily because of Arab hostility.

- 1. Concept of MEDO was abandoned following Secretary of State Dulles' personal trip to the Middle East in late spring.

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C. "Northern tier" concept, which includes Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and some Arab states (particularly Iraq), is current approach to Middle East defense problem. Large-scale US military and technical aid is considered essential to success of new Middle East defense system.

- 2 -

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